REVIEWED BY: VDL JR DATE: 12/8
RDS or XDS EXT DATE:
TS AUTH: REASON(S):
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS: X
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS:

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STANDARD DEPARTMENT LANGUAGE ON THE ISRAELI RAID
FOR USE IN YOUR REPLY

I am responding to your recent letter regarding the June 7 Israeli air attack on the nuclear reactor under construction in Iraq. The Government of Israel has confirmed that Israeli Air Force units were equipped with defense articles furnished to Israel by the U.S. under the Foreign Military Sales program.

On June 8, the Department of State Spokesman condemned the Israeli air strike, noting that the unprecedented character of this action could not but seriously add to the already tense situation in the area and complicate our efforts to resolve various problems in the area through peaceful means. The Spokesman made clear that the U.S. was not consulted in any way about any phase of this action and was not informed of it in advance.

On June 10 the President decided to suspend the scheduled delivery of four F-16 aircraft to Israel pending further study of the Israeli action and consultations with Congress. That same day Secretary Haig sent letters to the Chairmen of the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs Committees, pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act, indicating that a substantial violation of the 1952 U.S.-Israel Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement may have occurred. That agreement includes Israel's assurance that weapons acquired

from the U.S. will be used solely to maintain its internal security, its legitimate self-defense, or to permit it to participate in measures of collective security consistent with paragraph 51 also provides that Israel will not initiate any act of aggression against any other state.

On June 15 the United States voted in favor of Security Council Resolution 476 condemning the Israeli attack, which does not reflect our profound concern for the impact of this action on the peace and security of all the nations in the Middle East.

We are presently considering a number of this action, [illegible] our discussions with the Government of Israel. Pending the completion of these discussions, it would be premature for us to comment on any decisions reached by Israel today.

We have carefully noted the positions of Israel and Iraq. Israel contends that its action against Iraq was necessary for its legitimate self-defense because the Iraqi reactor was intended to produce weapons grade material to make nuclear bombs. Israel further claims that there has been a state of war between the two countries and has contended that Iraq had made clear its intention to produce such a weapon for use

Non-Proliferation Treaty and that Iraq's reactor and supply of enriched uranium are subject to IAEA safeguard controls.

The United States does not believe that force can resolve the current international dispute. Our condemnation of Israel's action is intended to give clear expression of our views in this regard. At the same time, my Ambassador reiterated more clearly in her statements to the Security Council, we remain fully committed to the security and well-being of Israel and to the friendship between our two countries. We will continue to do all in our power to achieve a just and lasting peace for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Sincerely,

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Action Memorandum

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